

CITY OF PORTAGE DES SIOUX

POST OFFICE BOX 108

PORTAGE DES SIOUX, MISSOURI 63373

VOICE (636)899-0640 MWSPARKY@SBCGLOBAL.NET FAX (636)899-1743

MAYOR MARK WARNER

October 13, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski and Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Industry Practices – WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am the mayor of the City of Portage des Sioux, a rural community of 450 located near St. Louis, Missouri. I am writing you because I fear your net neutrality rules may increase the digital divide and make it harder for rural communities to obtain broadband.

Recently, we celebrated the beginning of DSL and 3G services, which marked the first time that we had access to truly high-speed connectivity, a service enjoyed for some time by bigger cities.

I do not want that day to be the last time we celebrate getting the same broadband service as the big cities.

We now have broadband here because the private sector invested in the infrastructure to make it possible, and we can now enjoy the benefits. If government had imposed policies, like net neutrality, which make investment less attractive, then I believe we would still be using slower and less capable services.

I believe President Obama when he says he wants 100% broadband access, and I agree with his goal whole-heartedly. I am surprised his federal agency in charge of meeting that goal would first adopt regulations that clearly would do nothing to reach it. Reaching 100% broadband access requires more investment, not less.

I urge you not to adopt regulations which could delay when communities like mine will get broadband access.



Mayor Mark Warner
City of Portage des Sioux, Missouri